

Serial No. 10/695,592
Attorney Docket No. 87159200.242001

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and Response to Office Action is filed in reply to the Office Action of April 19, 2005. Presently, the restriction requirement is made final, and examination has been conducted with respect to claims 10-21 in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 10-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,690,121 issued to Weindorf ("Weindorf" hereafter). The rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are overcome for at least the reasons stated below.

I. Restriction Requirement

The Applicants acknowledge that the restriction has been made final in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1-9 thus have been withdrawn without disclaimer of the subject matter.

II. Rejection of Claims 10-21 as Being Anticipated by Weindorf

Claims 10-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Weindorf. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, that the programmable current controller is configured to regulate an operating driving current of the at least one illumination source according to a digital reference programmable by a user and corresponding to a predetermined reference driving current. Weindorf fails to disclose or suggest this claim feature. Weindorf may teach inputting a commanded lamp current to an error amplifier 142 to correct a current feedback signal from the backlight102 (see col. 5, lines 49-67, col. 9, lines 13-14). However, Weindorf does not teach or suggest that the commanded lamp current is a digital reference programmable by a user.

Further, according to amended independent claim 15, the claimed method includes

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comparing the first electrical parameter with the second electrical parameter to generate a driving bias current, wherein the first electrical parameter is a measured operating driving current of the illumination source and the second electrical parameter is obtained by conversion from a digital reference programmable by a user.

Weindorf's method differs from the claimed method. In Weindorf, the backlight driver 126 compares a current feedback signal sensed at the backlight 102 with a commanded lamp current provided to the backlight driver 126 (see col. 6, lines 8-14), wherein the commanded lamp current is determined according to a desired brightness and a backlight efficiency being calculated from a backlight temperature signal (see col. 5, lines 5-11). Weindorf does not teach and suggest a method in which a first electrical parameter corresponding to a measured operating driving current of the illumination source is compared with a second electrical parameter obtained by conversion from a digital programmable by a user.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that amended claims 10 and 15 patently define over the cited reference of Weindorf. Since claims 11-14 and 16-21 are respectively dependent upon patentable claims 10 and 15, Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims also patently define over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 10-21 thus is respectfully requested.

III. Additional Claims

Claims 22-27 have been added to cover additional embodiments of the invention, for which examination and allowance are also respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of pending claims 10-27 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned. Because this filing is submitted within the three-month deadline, no Petition for Extension of Time is required. In connection to the additional fees required for the additional claims, Commissioner is authorized to deduct from Deposit Account Number 13-0480, referencing docket number 87159200.242001.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this filing or the application in general, Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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